

VZCZCXRO6502
PP RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN RUEHTRO
DE RUEHDS #0357/01 0401706
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 091706Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3721
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0509
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 3262
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0918
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUZEFAA/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7728

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 000357

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/FO, AF/RSA, AF/S, AF/C, AND AF/SPG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/09/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [XA](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: AU SUMMIT -- AF ACTING A/S CARTER MEETS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FM

Classified By: AMBASSADOR DONALD YAMAMOTO, REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) SUMMARY: On February 2, AF Acting Assistant Secretary Phillip Carter met South African Foreign Minister Dlamini Dlamini-zuma on the margins of the African Union Summit. Their discussion focused primarily on the situation in Zimbabwe and touched on Sudan and Congo. Dlamini-zuma made two requests -- that the United States send representation to the Conference Against Racism in Geneva in April, and that the United States support South Africa's candidate for the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA). She did not raise and did not engage on the question of the International Criminal Court (ICC) indictment of Sudan's President Bashir. END SUMMARY.

ZIMBABWE

12. (C) Dlamini-zuma told Carter that South Africa is extremely worried about the economic and political situation in Zimbabwe, as the humanitarian and health crises directly impact her country and the rest of the Southern African neighborhood. She said South Africa is encouraged by the prospects of the formation of a ZANU-PF/MDC unity government, despite the serious challenges it faces. She expressed hope that the United States and rest of the international community would intervene to address the humanitarian crisis once the unity government is formed. In response, Carter noted that the devil is in the details, as the ZANU-PF/MDC seek common ground in forging a unity government. He emphasized the United States does not oppose the deal and will make this clear publicly, but remains skeptical about Mugabe's good faith in fully implementing it. Carter urged SADC to remain vigilant and to continue to encourage open dialogue in their role as guarantors under the agreement. He stressed that the collapse of Zimbabwe's infrastructure requires immediate and long-term attention to facilitate the emergency delivery of humanitarian and health care assistance, and to create conditions for future development that, in time, will encourage the return of citizens who have fled the descent into chaos.

SUDAN

13. (C) Dlamini-zuma asked for U.S. perspectives on the situation in Sudan, and said South Africa is concerned about the looming deadlines established in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the ability to meet them, and the interlocking issues of development and security. She said the more the African Union engages in Sudan, the better. Carter said the U.S. focus is on securing a broad-based peace agreement for Darfur, ensuring the unfettered deployment of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID),

providing humanitarian access in Darfur and implementing the CPA between North and South. The United States does not view the likely ICC indictment of Sudanese President Bashir as interfering with these goals, and expects others, including the Government of Sudan and other parties on the ground, including Darfur rebel groups, to exercise restraint and focus on working towards the same goals, whatever the ICC announcement may bring.

CONGO

¶4. (C) On the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dlamini-zuma indicated that South African defense personnel are in the process of sorting out impediments to her country's contribution of troops to MONUC.

CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM

¶5. (C) Dlamini-zuma made a plea for U.S. participation in the upcoming April 21-25 Conference On Racism in Geneva, arguing that this meeting, in contrast to previous ones, is slated to be a review of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. Thus, new issues would not be raised. She advocated U.S. attendance as a means of opening channels of communication and understanding, and suggested that the new Obama Administration carried hope and promise for engagement. She concluded saying she believed that if the United States attended other attendees would not be combative. Carter said the United States would look into the question. Note: The U.S. walked out of the 2001 Durban World Conference on Racism over disagreement of the inclusion of slave reparation

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language, new human rights legal instrument language and anti-Semitic rhetoric that unfolded during the conference. End note.

IAEA

¶6. (C) Dlamini-zuma reported that South Africa is fielding a candidate for the IAEA, as is Japan. She asked for U.S. support, or, failing that, U.S. neutrality in not opposing South Africa's candidate. Carter emphasized that the United States has made no decision regarding candidates. He further stressed the United States normally chooses to back a candidate on the basis of merit, but does not engage in negative campaigning about other candidates. He agreed to take the issue under advisement.

¶7. (U) Acting A/S Carter approved this message.
YAMAMOTO